

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING ERIC CROUCH
ON WINNING THE HEISMAN TROPHY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, This Member would like to congratulate Nebraska Cornhusker quarterback Eric Crouch for winning the Heisman Trophy. Throughout his career, and especially this year, Crouch proved that he deserves this recognition as the nation's top college football player.

The numbers are indeed impressive. In 2001, Crouch became just the 13th Division I—A quarterback to rush and pass for more than 1,000 yards in the same season. He also ran for 18 touchdowns, passed for seven more, and even caught a touchdown pass while leading the Huskers to an 11–1 record and a trip to the Rose Bowl for the national championship. During his career, Crouch scored 59 rushing touchdowns, more than any other Division I—A quarterback in history.

As impressive as the statistics are, however, they only tell part of the story. Crouch is a true leader and a winner both on and off the field. Despite playing through pain much of his career, Crouch never missed a snap in his final three seasons due to injury.

Crouch, a native Nebraskan, has set a powerful example through his hard work and steadfast determination to overcome obstacles. He has matched a fierce will to win with humility and strong character.

In addition to winning the Heisman Trophy, Crouch was also recently named the winner of the Walter Camp Award, given to the collegiate player of the year, and the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, given to the nation's top college quarterback.

This Member joins all Nebraskans and football fans across the nation in congratulating Eric Crouch on his success and the prestigious awards he has won.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S
VETERANS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, last week, we commemorated the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. That single event changed the history of the world, and altered the paths of all Americans. No one was more affected, however, than the World War II veterans who picked up arms in response to that attack. Ceremonies all across the nation honored them for their sacrifices last Friday, including one in which I was proud to participate on the U.S.S. *Enterprise*.

There can be no greater exhibition of gratitude, however, than passage of legislation that

improves the lives of those veterans and expands upon the benefits that they have richly earned. For months now, several bills passed by the House to help our veterans have awaited action by the other chamber. Today, I am pleased to join my colleagues in finally passing some of them and sending them to the President for his signature into law.

The first bill sets a high, but I think attainable goal, of ending chronic homelessness among veterans. Far too many of the brave men and women who fought to provide us with freedom spend their days and nights on the streets and in shelters. They returned from the battlefield but were unable to make the transition back to their civilian lives. Given the great sacrifices they have made on our behalf, we should be able to make a real effort to help them find their place in our society where they can feel welcome and comfortable. As many as 300,000 veterans sleep on the streets on any given night. The \$1 billion authorized by this legislation over the next five years will go far to help them find peace and shelter.

The second bill provides a 2.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment for veterans disability compensation. For 100 percent disabled veterans, this translates into an average of \$738 each year. These men and women sacrificed their ability to do many routine tasks, including work, when they put on the uniform and were wounded. This legislation merely helps them keep pace with inflation, so that they can pay their bills and live their lives. It is a modest increase compared to what they have given.

The final bill consolidates several bills considered by the House that increase education, housing, burial, and disability benefits for veterans by \$3.1 billion over the next five years. Specifically, the bill increases the popular and successful Montgomery GI Bill college education benefit by 51 percent over current levels, increases the veterans home loan guaranty by nearly \$10,000, and increases grants for disabled veterans' implements. Furthermore this bill expands the list of illnesses for which veterans can qualify for disability compensation and will repeal the 30-year presumptive period for respiratory cancers associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides.

Together, these bills are a fitting way to thank our veterans and to extend a promise to the millions of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines that are now serving in uniform. Without these men and women, the world would be far less secure and the future would be bleak. I am proud to be a part of the effort to show our thanks.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR KEN
DEBEAUSSAERT CLINTON TOWNSHIP
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this year the Clinton Township Democratic Club will host its biennial Awards Banquet, where members come together to celebrate the achievements of two of its members with food, laughter and fun. Honoring distinguished individuals who have shown outstanding dedication and service to the club as well as their local communities, this year they chose to honor two very special people, State Senator Ken DeBeaussiaert and Clinton Township Democratic Club President Christine Koch. Over the course of my career in Congress, I have had the honor of recognizing individuals from all over my District and State. Today, however, I have the distinct pleasure of honoring my two good friends, Ken and Chris.

First elected in 1992 and reelected in 1998, Ken has represented the Eleventh State Senate District and his community well for years. Serving on State Senate committees that include Appropriations, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, Reapportionment, and Local, Urban, and State Affairs, Ken has shown outstanding dedication and commitment to his constituents and this state. An active and enthusiastic supporter of the environment and conservation efforts in Michigan, Ken also served ten years in the Michigan House of Representatives prior to his State Senate terms, where he served on the Conservation, Recreation, and Environment Committee as well as chaired the Consumers Committee and Marine Affairs and Port Development Committee. Between his House and Senate terms he worked in 1992 for Congressman Sander Levin as District Administrator, and finally, I had the pleasure of working with Ken where he began as a member of my Congressional District Staff as a constituent service representative in 1977.

Faithfully committed to his community as well, Ken is a member of a long list of community organizations, including the New Baltimore Historical Society, the Mount Clemens Art Center, and Creating a Healthier Macomb, and serves on the advisory boards of Comprehensive Youth Services and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, to name a few. Finally, as an elected official member of the Clinton Township Democratic Club, Ken has devoted his time serving as a panelist for the club's annual student government luncheons as well as presenting a legislative update each fall for the past several years.

It gives me great pleasure to honor one of my district's most tireless advocates for the Democratic way of life, State Senator Ken DeBeaussiaert, for his leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of service.

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